

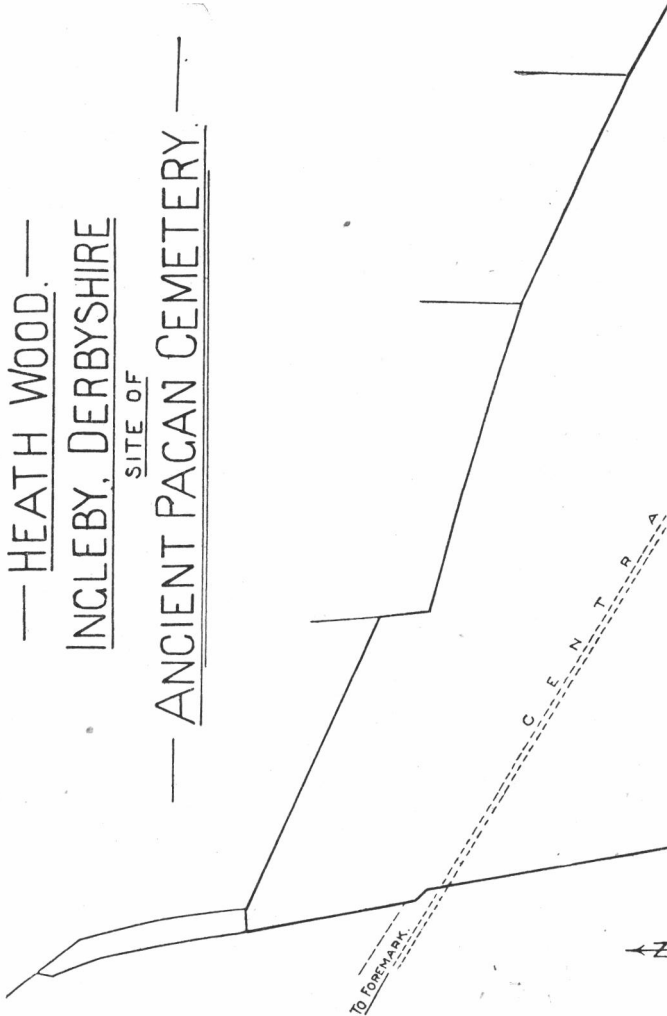
GENERAL PLAN.

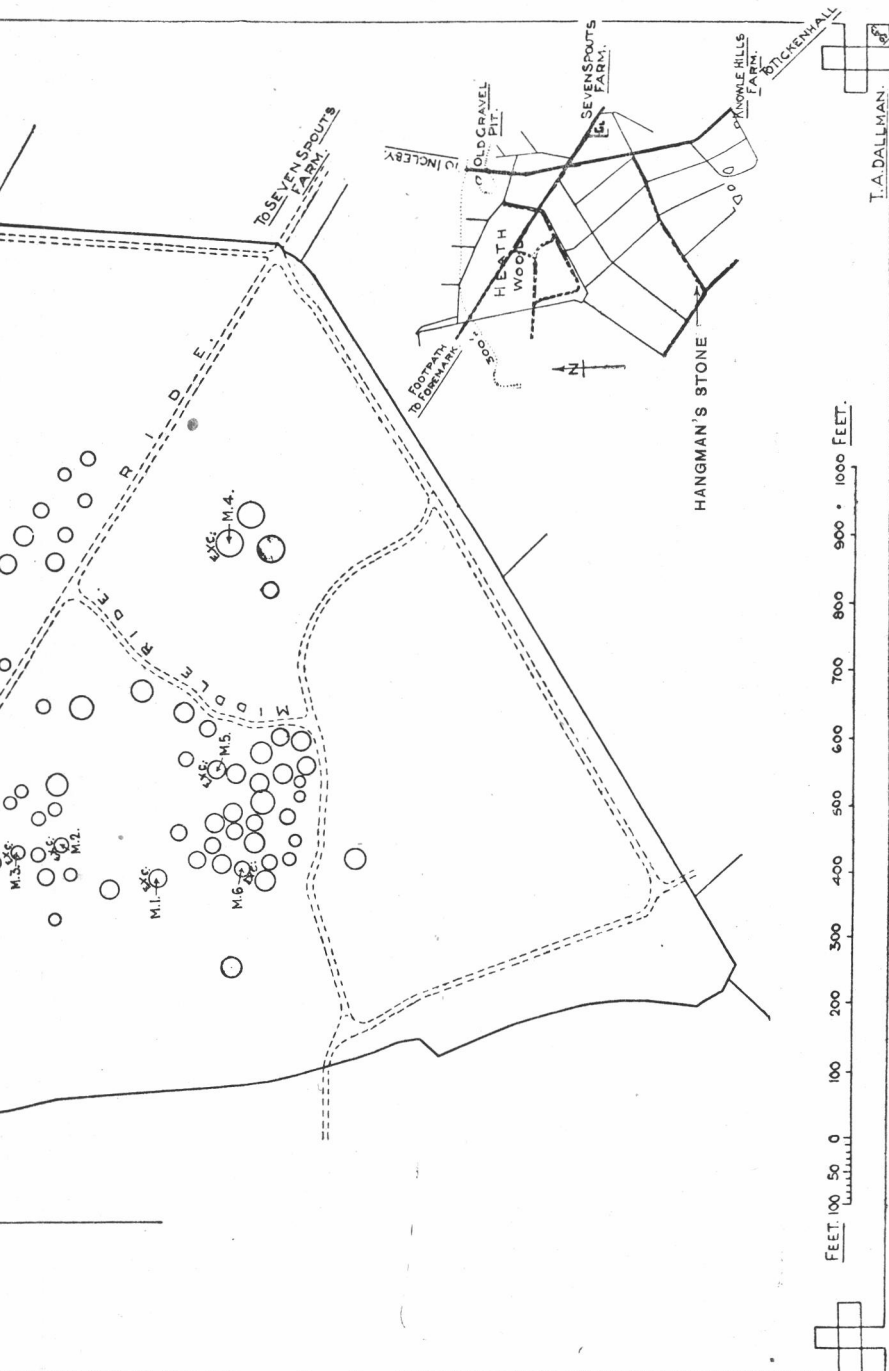
— HEATH WOOD. —

INGLEBY, DERBYSHIRE

SITE OF

— ANCIENT PAGAN CEMETERY. —





T. A. DALLMAN.

Facing p. i.

DERBYSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL
AND
NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY.

EXCAVATION OF PAGAN BURIAL MOUNDS :
INGLEBY, DERBYSHIRE.

By CAMDEN CLARKE and WILLIAM FRASER.

I. INTRODUCTORY.

THE Report presented below follows the brief notice on the Ingleby site which appeared in Vol. LXII of this *Journal*.

Before proceeding further we should like to express our gratitude for assistance in digging, etc., rendered by several members of the Derbyshire and the Burton-on-Trent Archæological Societies; also for photographic help from Mr. F. A. Shutt, of Melbourne. We owe special thanks to the late Mr. T. A. Dallman, also of Melbourne, for his work on a Survey of the site, which was prepared under considerable difficulty because of the density of large timber and undergrowth; also for his drawings of the site (see General Plan), the mounds, and the finds. For the splendid drawing of the sword-reconstruction we are indebted to Mr. E. Thurlow Leeds, F.S.A. Our best thanks are due to Mr. W. F. Grimes, F.S.A., and to Mr. W. H. Hanbury, F.G.S., both of whom visited the site and gave us valued advice. We also have to thank Mr. T. D. Kendrick, F.S.A., for his interest in our work. Finally, we are greatly indebted to the various gentlemen whose Reports are annexed.

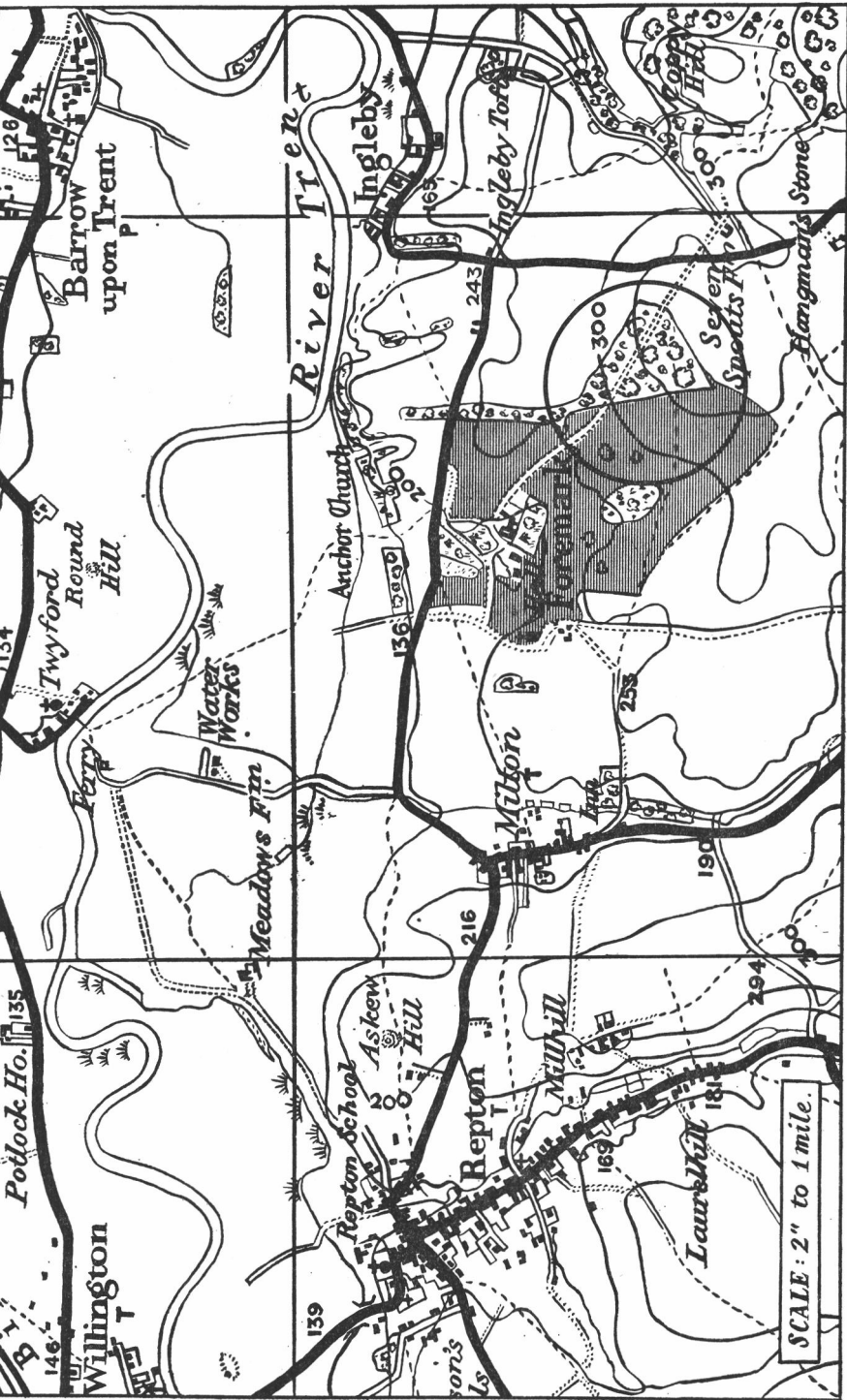
The whole of the excavation work was done by voluntary labour; only the two writers were engaged upon it throughout its entire course.

Work on the site was begun towards the close of 1941, the Burton-on-Trent Natural History and Archæological Society obtaining the necessary permission from the then landowners, the Prudential Assurance Co. Ltd. On the purchase of the estate by the Ecclesiastical Commissioners early in 1943 this permission automatically lapsed, but the work was continued under a written authorisation granted to the writers by the Hon. Geoffrey Bourke, agent for the new owners.

The literature bearing on this burial site is, so far as we are aware, restricted to two sources. In 1861 Thomas Bateman, the Derbyshire barrow-digger, published his "Ten Years Digging," in which he describes the opening of five mounds, in 1855, in what he calls a "tumular cemetery" at Foremark. The excavation was decidedly casual and the finds negligible; two very small fragments of iron, the present location of which we have been unable to trace. No record exists of the exact position of Bateman's five mounds. Several contiguous mounds shew considerable traces of disturbance, but this is as likely to have been caused by sportsmen digging after rabbits and ferrets as by Bateman's hurried operations.

The only other published reference to the site we have come across is in *V.C.H. Derbyshire*, Vol. I, where the late John Ward deals with it in conjunction with the other Trentside Pagan cemeteries at Stapenhill and King's Newton.

From the conclusions arrived at by Mr. Thurlow Leeds, it would appear there is a close chronological association between the Ingleby site and the statement in the A-S Chronicle that the Danish army lay at Repton (three miles away) during the winter of 874-5. The only material evidence of this period so far discovered



MAP OF DISTRICT SHOWING HEATH WOOD IN CIRCLE.

Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey map with the sanction of the Controller of H.M. Stationery Office.

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at Repton is the Viking axe-head found by the late Mr. H. H. Vassall (see Vol. XLVI of this *Journal*).

II. THE SITE.

The cemetery is situated in the Heath Wood, a mixed plantation of approximately 31 acres on the western border of the parish of Ingleby, in South Derbyshire. The wood appears on the six-inch o.s. sheet No. LVII (Derbyshire). There is a trigonometrical point (386 feet) about 90 yards outside the wood to the south, and the 300 feet contour line crosses its north-western tip, so that the general elevation of the site, which slopes gently down-hill from south to north in the direction of the Trent, is between 300 and 400 feet. Heath Wood crowns the highest point locally of the ridge which runs almost unbroken for miles along the right bank of the Trent, from which, and the hamlet of Ingleby, it is three-quarters of a mile distant. (See Map).

The cemetery is on the Bunter sandstone. (See Report No. III). Approximately 60 mounds have up to the present been located by us; six of which have so far been excavated.

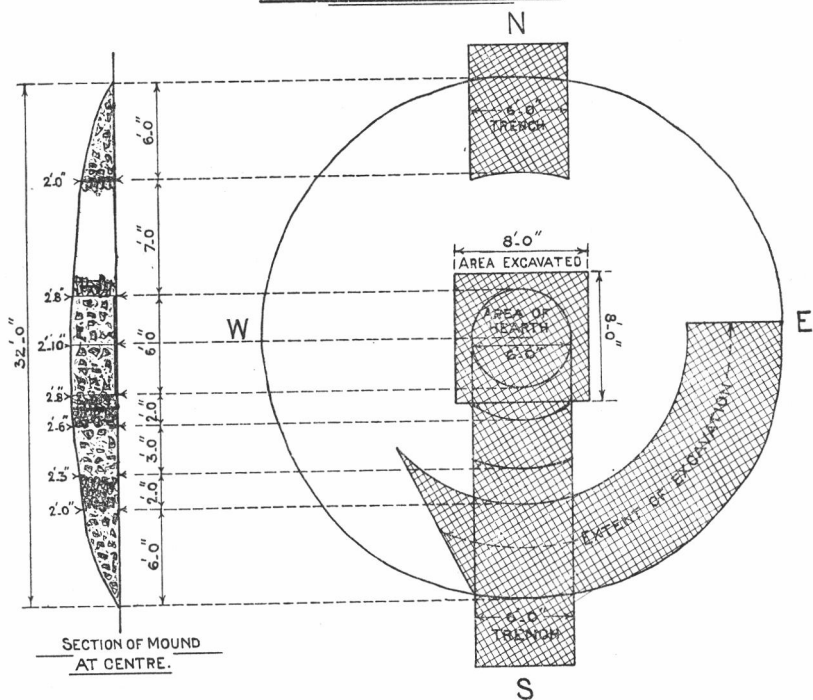
III. THE EXCAVATIONS.

The mounds range in diameter between the extremes of 20 and 45 feet, with height at the centre varying from 18 to 60 inches. As all the mounds are more or less encumbered by large timber and dense undergrowth we experienced some difficulty in making selections for excavation.

MOUND I. (M I). (Fig. I).

This mound, when cleared of undergrowth, measured about 32 feet across, with a height of 34 inches. From the S. a trench 6 feet wide was driven from just outside the margin to 4 feet beyond the centre. The material encountered was as follows:—

HEATH WOOD.
 — INGLEBY DERBYSHIRE. —
BURIAL MOUND M.I.



- (a) First 6 feet: Marl and gravel, with pieces of sandstone thinly distributed.
- (b) Next 2 feet: Larger pieces of sandstone in considerable quantity.
- (c) Next 3 feet: Similar construction to (a).
- (d) Next 2 feet: do. do. (b).

At about 13 feet from the margin of the mound we uncovered a roughly circular hearth of approximately 6 feet in diameter, which had the appearance of being surrounded by a ring of larger sandstones. Many of the stones in the immediate vicinity of the hearth were blackened as by fire. The hearth was composed of a layer of tightly-packed charcoal averaging 2 inches in thickness. This charcoal was mainly in powdered form, but contained a sprinkling of solid pieces up to 1 inch in length. (See Report No. VII).

Embedded throughout the charcoal were numerous small fragments of bone. (See Reports Nos. IV and VI M 1 (a)). Also in the charcoal layer we found the remains of a sword (Fig. 5), a buckle (Fig. 7) and a strap-slide (Fig. 8), all of iron, and in addition a bronze suspensory loop (Fig. 6) and two fragments of the same metal. (See Report No. II). It may be noted here that the metal finds in all mounds were considerably distorted by the action of fire and coated with charcoal and bone fragments.

A careful search outside the charcoal area rewarded us with a number of larger bone pieces. (See Report No. VI M 1 (b)). Excavation to a depth of 3 feet below the hearth revealed nothing but clean earth. (See Plan M 1).

It is necessary, perhaps, to state that in all the mounds excavated we found evidence of drastic root action and also many traces of the activities of burrowing animals, both no doubt causing serious displacement of the original disposition of the mound contents. Neither in this, nor in any of the other mounds opened, did we find any trace of pottery.



PLATE I.

FIG. 1. ABOVE : Mound 1, looking North.

FIG. 2. BELOW : Mound 4, looking South.

Photo. by F. A. Shutt.

Facing p. 6.



PLATE II. FIG. 3. ABOVE : Mound 4, looking South.
FIG. 4. BELOW : Mound 6, looking South-west.

Photo. by F. A. Shutt.
Photo. by T. A. Dallman.

MOUND 2. (M 2).

The measurements here were a diameter of approximately 28 feet and a height at the centre of 30 inches. A 6 feet trench driven from the S. was prolonged to a distance of 21 feet, and the central area was increased to an 8 feet diameter. No traces of hearth, interment, or metal objects were found. Sandstones were present in great quantity, but very irregularly distributed. Excavation some way below natural ground level in the central area revealed undisturbed conditions.

MOUND 3. (M 3).

Diameter 28 feet and height 30 inches. A 6 feet trench was driven from the S. to a distance of 18 feet, and the central area investigated as in Mound 2. No definite hearth was found, but traces of bone and charcoal were unevenly distributed throughout the excavated area. The mound had been extensively used by burrowing animals.

For the traces of human remains in this mound see Report No. IV. For the metal finds see Report No. II and Figs. 9 and 10.

MOUND 4. (M 4).

This mound is one of a group of three shewing much dissimilarity in size from the others in the cemetery. The approximate measurements were 44 feet across and 54 inches in height at the centre. Stripping it of undergrowth and leaf-mould revealed the presence of a number of large sandstone slabs irregularly dispersed near the surface, some of them weighing a hundredweight or more. A 6 feet trench was driven from the S. through the mound to its N. margin. In contrast to the others opened, this mound contained slabs and blocks of sandstone of considerable size, one or two weighing several hundredweights each. (See Figs. 2 and 3). In the central area the trench was expanded to a square of 10 feet, and this square excavated to a

depth of 2 feet below the natural ground level. No evidence whatever of an interment was encountered. (See Report No. III re acidity of soil).

MOUND 5. (M 5).

Diameter 28 feet and height 36 inches. A 6 feet trench was driven from the E. for a distance of 19 feet. Small sandstones were scantily dispersed throughout the excavated portion. Traces of a charcoal hearth were revealed in the central area, and further digging discovered its presence to a distance of 5 feet beyond the S. wall of the trench. Throughout the charcoal area were found numerous fragments of calcined bone. (See Reports Nos. IV and VI). Reference to the two metal finds is made in Report No. II (and see Fig. 11).

MOUND 6. (M 6).

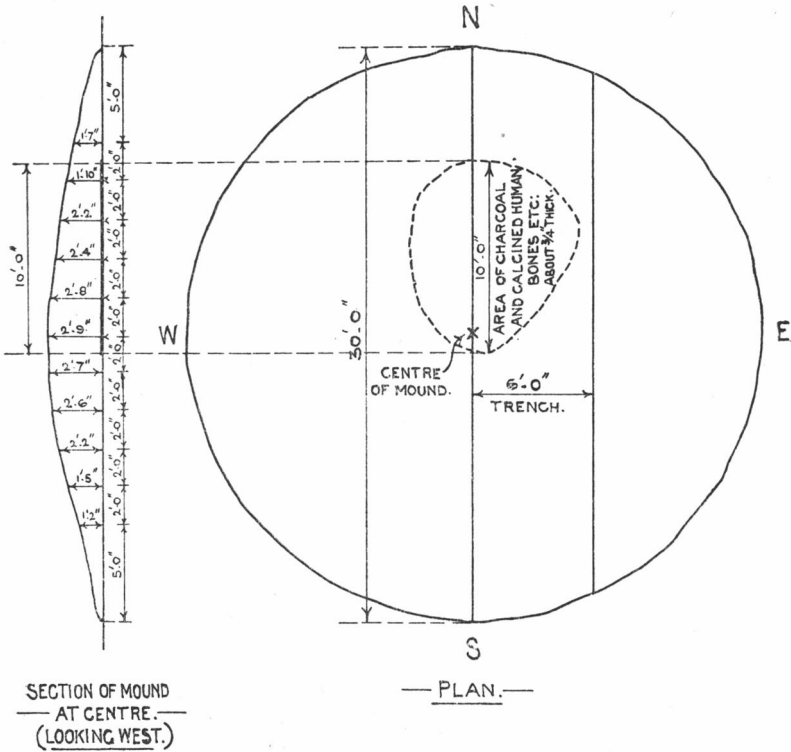
Diameter 30 feet and height 33 inches. A 6 feet trench was driven from the S. to the N. margin, the W. boundary of which coincided with the central N. to S. line of the mound. A very thin charcoal layer was discovered near the centre, but it lay almost wholly to the N. of a W. to E. diameter. (See Plan M 6).

A greater quantity of bone fragments was found here than in any of the other mounds opened. (See Reports Nos. V and VI).

The metal finds in this mound comprised two iron buckles (Figs. 12 and 13), six iron nails (Fig. 14), a bronze strap-tab (Fig. 15), and a small bronze ornament. (See Report No. II).

This mound differed structurally from the others in the extremely few pieces of sandstone met with. (Fig. 4).

HEATH WOOD.
INGLEBY. DERBYSHIRE.
ANCIENT PAGAN CEMETERY.
 — BURIAL MOUND (M-6). —



REPORT No. I.

By E. THURLOW LEEDS, M.A., F.S.A.

The practice of cremation was, as is well known, the traditional and for the most part the earliest funeral rite in the Anglo-Saxon period, but it is comparatively rare to meet with cremation *in situ*, where the pyre has subsequently been covered by a mound. Two outstanding examples come to mind, the first at Broomfield, Essex,¹ in which a rich grave-furniture was placed on the remains of the pyre, the second at Asthall, Oxon.,² where apparently an equally rich series of objects was consigned to the flames along with the body of the deceased. These two cases can be dated to the first half of the seventh century, and as such may be regarded as examples of the persistence of an old practice, not, I believe, in opposition to the spread of Christianity—their date is almost too early for that—but from a conservatism to which parallels can be drawn in all civilisations and in all times. These mound-covered cremations are as noted rare, and there is no evidence that they continued beyond the seventh century.

Clearly we must look elsewhere for an explanation of the interesting group at Ingleby. The time-element is dictated by the sword. Let us see how closely this can be fixed with any degree of accuracy. In the first place it is apparent from the reconstruction that the sword belongs to the class so richly represented in Scandinavia and elsewhere which is ordinarily designated as Viking. At the same time the reconstruction is admittedly to some extent hypothetical and may require modification when reference to expert Scandinavian opinion again becomes possible. For, although the reconstruction includes features of recognised types, it does not exactly conform to any one of them at all points. This arises from the uncertainty in regard to the correct placing of the upper and lower guards of the hilt. By comparison with Petersen's types,³ it seems to be related to his type L on the one hand, if we assume that the remains of the pommel corresponds to the humped form of the example from Vestre Dolven, Brunlanes, Jarlsberg og Larvik Amt,⁴ set upon a slender, curved upper guard. On the other hand, the straight lower guard with slightly swollen ends would correspond most nearly to

¹ *V.C.H. Essex*, I, 320.

² *Antiquaries Journal*, IV, 113.

³ Jan Petersen, *De Norske Vikingesverd* (Kristiania, 1919), p. 112.

⁴ *Ibid.*, p. 113, fig. 94.

those of his types R and S,⁵ to which belong most of the swords inlaid with the name VLFBERHT. Type L is dated to the latter half of the ninth century, while types R and S belong to early or mid tenth. It should be noted, however, that Petersen states that type R, though known from Denmark, Norway and Sweden, was not native, but was introduced into Scandinavia from Western Europe a little before the middle of the tenth century, type S being a development from type R.

I have been unable to discover an illustrated parallel for the association of the curved upper and straight lower guards except in type Y,⁶ where, however, the lower guard can be quite slender, and, though developed from type P which is assigned to the early tenth century, can like type P have a downward curve, even if not so pronounced as at a later date.

From the above survey it seems safe to regard the Ingleby sword as a hybrid between the Norwegian types L and R, and in view of the accepted western origin of R to date it to the latter years of the ninth century.

Swords found in this country appear to belong chiefly to the late ninth and tenth centuries, e.g. those from the Thames at London,⁷ one an Ulfberht piece, the other two of Petersen's type L, as is the Wallingford sword with its hilt decorated in western style.⁸

Nor do the records of burials of this period in southern England help us. They are in any case very scarce; burials at Leigh, near Southend, approximately dated by coins of Alfred (871-900) and of Plegmund, Archbishop of Canterbury (890-914), without any other relics cannot be used for comparison. A grave at Santon, Norfolk,⁹ containing a sword with curved guards and a pair of Scandinavian oval brooches, is again late; another sword from Russell Park, Bedford,¹⁰ is questionably assigned to this period. The account of small mounds found at Goldhanger, Essex,¹¹ in which Saxon or Danish relics are said to have been found is suggestive,

⁵ *Ibid.*, pp. 140-149, e.g. from Vad, Etne, Sondre Bergenhus, p. 140, and A. L. Lorange, *Den yngre jernalders svaerd*, pl. 1, fig. 1, or that from Snoen, Meldalen, Sondre Trondhjem (Petersen, p. 147, fig. 117).

⁶ *V.C.H. London*, I, 154, ff. figs. 8-13.

⁷ Petersen, 172.

⁸ *Archaeologia*, L, 532; *V.C.H. Berks.*, I, 244. The possibility of the Ingleby sword being a mixture of types such as are more usual in this country is not excluded (see London Museum Catalogue, No. I, p. 29 ff. fig. 13, III and V).

⁹ *Proc. Suffolk Inst. Arch.*, IV, 208; *V.C.H. Norfolk*, I, 324.

¹⁰ *V.C.H. Beds.*, I, 190.

¹¹ *V.C.H. Essex*, I, 328.

but nothing is known of any finds beyond the mere statement. Parallels to the Ingleby cremation-graves in the late Saxon period appear to be unknown. Evidently we have to look elsewhere.

In Scandinavia cremation persisted side by side with inhumation right down to the middle ages.¹² Its practice is best known from Viking graves, sometimes accompanied by immolation of enormous wealth and even of a human being, as vividly described by the Arab traveller, Ibn Fadlan in the tenth century.¹³ But particularly in North Jutland in Vendsyssel, north of the Limfjord, there are groups of mounds, some large, others quite small, and yet others triangular with hollow sides. They are not all of one age, but range from 500 A.D. to the close of the heathen period; they are never richly furnished and they include no chieftain-graves. They may as Engelhardt maintained¹⁴ represent burial by the poorer classes, but they are not, as Neergaard fairly observes, indicative of a low state of culture, since there are many signs of wealthy folk in that region. Below the mound is usually a ring of stones delimiting the scattered pyre (*den spredte Baallag*), often with a central upright stone (*Bautasten*).

The contents of the mound are sparse indeed. Even in the earlier group at Dombaek, Gjerum sogn, no more than such things as iron rivets of a comb and sherds; very occasionally sufficient to reconstruct handled pots and a round-bellied vase with out-turned rim. This group is described as ranging up to the Viking period.¹⁵

Another group at Ris Fattigaard, Torslev Amt, includes mounds that can be definitely assigned to Viking times. Here among the contents are sherds of a characteristic round-bottomed vase of coarse fabric with plain inturned rim, knives of a type "not found elsewhere," an axe of "Viking form," mosaic beads, large or small oval brooches of "late forms," and a special type equal-armed brooch, known from Viking graves in Norway, e.g. at Hadneland, Myking sogn, Nordre Bergenhus (associated with a pair of oval brooches),¹⁶ and

¹² Shetelig, Falk and Gordon, *Scandinavian Archaeology*, pp. 277-8. *Aarbøger for Nordisk Oldkyndighed*, 1881, pp. 156-158; C. Engelhardt, *Jernalderens Gravskikke i Jylland*.

¹³ C. M. Frahn, *Ibn Fozlan's und anderer Araber Berichte über die Russen älterer Zeit* (St. Petersburg, 1823, pp. 13-15.)

¹⁴ *Aarbøger*, 1881, p. 156.

¹⁵ *Ibid.*, 1892, pp. 336-338.

¹⁶ *Aarsberetning af Foreningen norske Fortidsminde-merkens Bevaring*, 1890, p. 121, no. 86 c, pl. IV 23; cf. *ibid.*, 1896, p. 88, fig. 4.

finally a loom-weight of a conical shape peculiar to Viking times. It is noted that weapons are almost entirely absent.¹⁷

At Høistrup, Tømmerby sogn, Tisted Amt, where cremation is noted as the prevalent rite, the same scarcity of relics occurs and this is the case even where the deceased has been buried in a chest, $7\frac{1}{2}$ feet long by $3\frac{1}{4}$ feet wide, the existence of which was established by the presence of angle-irons and nails.¹⁸

The close analogy of these north Jutland cemeteries with others in districts of Norway and Sweden bordering on the Skagerak and the Kattegat is recognised by Scandinavian archæologists. It is even thought that their presence in north Jutland may be due to settlers from south Scandinavia.¹⁹

Everything seems to point, therefore, to a close resemblance of the mounds at Ingleby to those northern cemeteries and in particular to those in north Jutland. For it is generally admitted that most of the invaders of southern England described as Vikings (a name more applicable to raiders who ravaged northern Scotland and Ireland from the fiords of Norway) were Danes.

At once we are confronted with the Danish attack on Mercia under Healfdene in 874 and its occupation by the Danes until 918, by which time much of the western part of the midlands had been recovered by the English. It appears that, though Tamworth and Lichfield may have been sacked by the Danes in 874, little evidence exists to suggest that they held those towns. The limit of the Danelaw at its most westerly extension seems to have been set close to the southernmost point of Derbyshire,²⁰ and thus the Ingleby cemetery may well represent an outpost of the Danes.²¹ Poor as is the material from this little group of mounds, yet it assumes a high importance in so far as for the first time it allows us to recognise a burial-ground of any size belonging to the Danish occupation.

So far the main clue to the date of the cemetery has been the sword, and it is fortunate that we have so distinctive an object to guide us, but it is not the only object that can be paralleled from Viking times in Denmark. The buckles from Mound 6 with their unfamiliar swollen tongues, appear in an

¹⁷ S. Müller, *Ordning af Danmarks Oldsager*, 613.

¹⁸ Aarbøger, 1881, fig. on p. 149.

¹⁹ For the literature on these cremation-cemeteries see J. Brondsted, *Danmarks Oldtid*, III, 312 and 379.

²⁰ Healfdene wintered at Repton.

²¹ B. C. Darby in *Historical Geography of England before 1800* points out that from the list of seven shires—Yorkshire, Lincolnshire, Nottinghamshire, Leicestershire and Northamptonshire, Derbyshire has evidently been omitted by mistake.

inhumation-grave at Stengade, Tullebølle, Svendborg, in the island of Langeland,²² though without plates, and possibly it is a buckle like that from Mound 3, that is meant by Neergaard's description of an "oblong foursided iron buckle" (*aflang firkantete Jernspænde*) from one of the mounds at Ris.²³

Again, the nails which appear in three of the Ingleby mounds may be from chests of the type noted above from Høistrup though the absence of clamps is curious. It is unfortunate that the little bronze object from Mound 6 has suffered so severely from the flames of the pyre as to leave but slender hopes that its original form can be detected and so yield perhaps yet another parallel from Danish soil.

²² *Acta Archaeologica*, VII, 161, fig. 70.

²³ *Aarbøger*, 1892, p. 335.

REPORT No. II.

By E. THURLOW LEEDS, M.A., F.S.A.

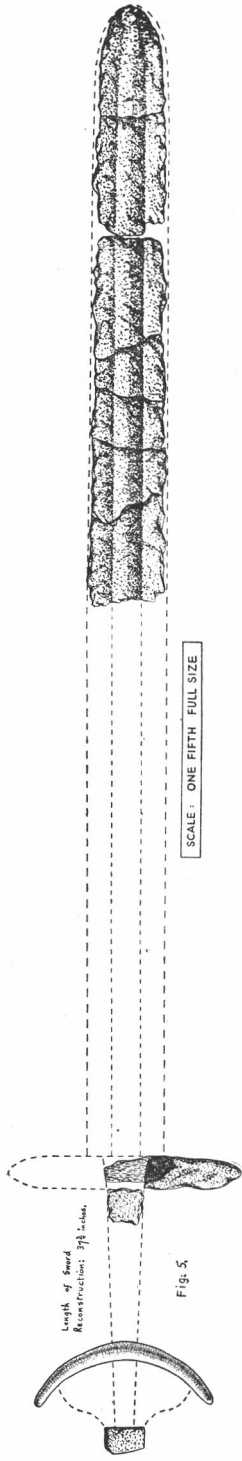
MOUND I.

Sword, iron. The normal length of the sword alike in early Anglo-Saxon and in late Saxon times is about 3 feet 3 inches in all, of which 30-33 inches is taken up by the blade. As is shewn in the tentative restoration (fig. 5) only 16 inches at the lower end is preserved. Considering that so much has survived even in a damaged condition, the disappearance of almost half the blade is mysterious, unless the weapon was purposely mutilated before deposition on the pyre. Something of that kind must have happened, since search through a wide range of literature both English and Scandinavian has failed to produce more than a single example from Bornholm, the Danish island off the south coast of Sweden. It is figured by E. Vedel in his *Bornholms Oldsager*, p. 157, fig. 310. This blade is apparently only 12 inches long, but is not channeled like the Ingleby piece.

Of the hilt of the sword four pieces can be recognised among the broken and distorted fragments:—

(a) *Portion of the pommel*: a small piece, c. 1 inch L. by $\frac{1}{2}$ inch W. at the base. Its lower side shews a rectangular frame with rounded corners within which the heads of two nails seem to have been set in a wooden filling. In such case the fragment may belong to the hump of a pommel like that of the Wallingford type of sword.¹

¹ London Museum Catalogues, no. I, *London in Viking Times*, 32, fig. 13, V.



Length of sword
Reconstruction: $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches.

SCALE: ONE FIFTH FULL SIZE

Fig. 5.

(b) *Upper guard*: a curved bar, apparently oval in section, the surface of which has been treated in some manner (plating ?); the ends of the bar were rounded off.

(c) *Hilt*: a small piece slightly tapered of the tang, $\frac{7}{8}$ inch L., possibly broken off above the blade.

(d) *Lower guard*: narrow, flat, c. 1 inch W. and c. 6 inches L., swelling towards each end, which may have had a slightly humped outline, matching that of the pommel. Little more than a half is preserved, but sufficient to establish its function. The action of the fire has partially split the iron, leaving exposed a black interior surface, beyond which point towards the middle the two inner faces do not meet, and in addition are rusty brown in colour and longitudinally streaked, as if from contact with some substance (leather or wood) inserted between the tang and the guard in order to tighten the joint. The line of division between the two surfaces slopes slightly, so corresponding to the tapering line of the hilt (c).

Blade: this, though evidently incomplete, is otherwise of a normal channeled type; the lower end is less tapered than is usual and the point, which is well preserved, is more rounded, producing a rather clumsy appearance.

Suspensory loop: bronze, $1\frac{5}{8}$ inches L., $\frac{5}{8}$ inch W., stoutly made with one end looped, on which is a large nipple, and expanding to the open end; two rivets, one above the other on the median line. The jaws of the loop are set sufficiently wide apart to have taken a doubled strap. It might conceivably have served to suspend the scabbard from the belt (fig. 6).

Buckle: iron: $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches L., $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches W., round in section; tang wanting (fig. 7).

Strap-slide: iron, imperfect. It has evidently been oblong in form with an elongated oval opening. Seen in section the two long sides are set at an angle to one another: W. $\frac{3}{4}$ inch (fig. 8).

Fragments of bronze: one is a portion of a rounded bar, the other a thin rod, expanding and flattening in one direction, in a way reminiscent of an Anglo-Saxon toilet-implement.

MOUND 3.

Buckle: iron; rectangular loop with laterally projecting ends; tongue with bulbous tip; folded back-plate. L. $1\frac{7}{8}$ inches; W. $\frac{7}{8}$ inch (fig. 9).

Nails: iron; two, of different sizes with spherical heads, $\frac{1}{2}$ inch or $\frac{3}{8}$ inch in diameter; with a collar below $\frac{3}{4}$ or $\frac{1}{2}$ inch W.; that of the larger specimen appears to have a beaded edge. L. of nail c. $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches (fig. 10).

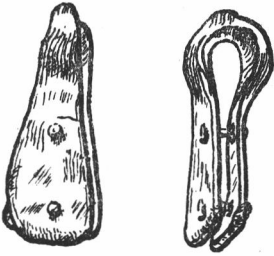


Fig: 6.



Fig: 7.



Fig: 8.

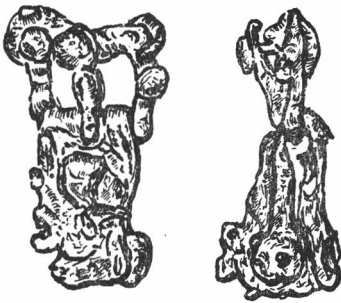


Fig: 9.

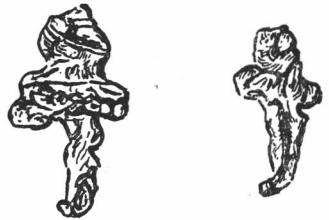


Fig: 10

SCALE $\frac{3}{4}$ FULL SIZE

Fragments of thin sheet bronze: (a) a narrow half-tubular piece of a curved rim; (b) a double piece, L. $\frac{1}{2}$ inch, W. $\frac{3}{8}$ inch; rounded and riveted at one end. To judge from (a) these may have belonged to a stoup or bucket, 3 inches in diameter, in which case (b) may be part of a clip from one of the bronze bands encircling the vessel.

Fragment of rod: bronze; slender and bent at one end, L. c. $1\frac{1}{4}$ inches.

MOUND 5.

Nail: iron; as the small-sized example from Mound 3.

Nail: iron; imperfect, massive, with discoid head, $1\frac{3}{4}$ inches in diameter; the shank $\frac{1}{2}$ inch in diameter; L. as preserved 3 inches. The purpose of this clumsy piece is difficult to conjecture, unless it had to do with the construction of a pyre (fig. 11).

MOUND 6.

Buckles: iron, two; L. $2\frac{1}{4}$ inches, W. $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches; both large and massive with tongues swollen at the middle; one has a strap-slide secured between the back-plates and behind the two terminal rivets (figs. 12 and 13).

Nails: iron, six; L. c. 1 inch, with flat circular heads (fig. 14).

Strap-tab: bronze; plain, L. $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches, W. $\frac{1}{2}$ inch; two rivets (fig. 15).

Ornament ?: bronze; L. 1 inch. This unfortunately has been so crumpled by fire as to make its nature difficult to diagnose. At first sight it produces the impression of a small fibula with divided bow. Its length is not entirely against such an interpretation, for a fibula of about the same length was found along with the famous Anglo-Saxon brooch from Kingston Down, Kent, and an even smaller one, barely $\frac{3}{4}$ inch long, came from grave 43 in the late cemetery at Uncleby, Yorks.²

Professor Cave's interesting report on the cremated bones from this mound strengthens the assumption here made that we have to do with a feminine ornament. The presence of animal bones on the pyre certainly reveals the heathen character of the funeral rite: the food was supplied to the deceased in addition to any possible wake-feast consumed by the mourners, a long-continuing survival in christianised communities.

Fragments of bronze: three in number, one a piece of a thin rod with looped end, the other two formless.

² E. T. Leeds, *Early Anglo-Saxon Art and Archaeology*, pl. XXVII.



Fig: 11



Fig: 13.

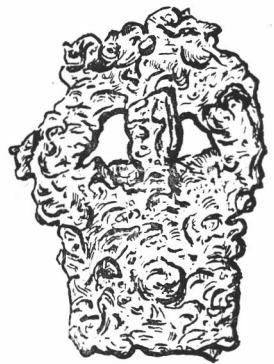


Fig: 12.

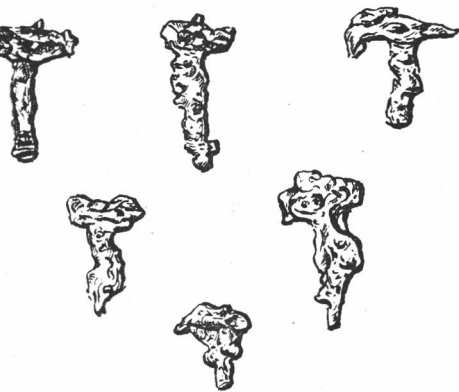


Fig: 14.

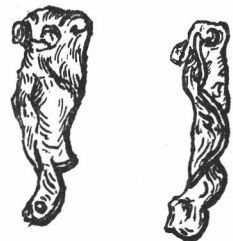


Fig: 15.

SCALE : $\frac{3}{4}$ FULL SIZE

REPORT No. III.

By W. H. HANBURY, F.G.S.

Heath Wood, which in recent times has grown up on the site of the burial mounds, is situated on an inlier of Bunter sandstone and sand. The sandy nature of the soil, and the permeability of the sub-stratum, render the site dry in all seasons of the year. Chiefly on account of this the Bunter is not favourable to the growth of dense natural forest; whereas the Keuper marl to the north and west of the area, and the Coal Measure clay to the south would be densely wooded in early times. These facts may have determined the choice of the Heath Wood district as the site of a settlement.

Another important fact is that at Seven Spouts, only a few hundred yards from the burial mounds, the purple clay, underlying the Bunter, crops out and brings to the surface a copious supply of pure water.

Most of the stones used in the construction of the mounds are Keuper sandstone, probably obtained from Knowle Hill adjacent to the site. A few blocks of Millstone Grit were used. These could be obtained from the out-crop in Robin Wood. Many of the stones shew traces of the action of fire.

The soil on the site used in making the mounds has an acid reaction (PH^5). This acidity and the sandy nature of the soil would militate against the preservation of organic remains.

REPORT No. IV.

By PROFESSOR A. J. E. CAVE, M.D., F.R.A.I.

The three parcels (M. 1, M. 3, M. 5) of cremated osseous remains have been carefully worked over, with the results stated below. The contents of each parcel represent thoroughly cremated bones, which have been deliberately broken up after incineration: the chips and pieces available for examination, therefore, are mainly of very small size, many of them much fissured and warped by fire heat. In none of the three parcels is a complete skeleton represented, M. 1 and M. 3 being extremely incomplete in this respect. Recognisable cranial fragments occur in M. 5 only, and even these are insufficient to form any clue as to the racial type of the individual so represented. The dating of all these remains must depend, therefore, upon archaeological, rather than anatomical, evidence. Sex can be tentatively established in one instance (M. 5) only. In M. 1 and M. 5 cremated and comminuted animal bones

occur, four such fragments in M. 1, eleven such in M. 5. As the College Museum lost its entire collection of comparative osteology through enemy action in 1941, no means are here available for an accurate identification of these non-human remains, most of which, however, appear to be of ungulate origin.

M. 1. The incomplete remains of a cremated human skeleton. The fragments present afford no clue as to racial type, sex or age of the individual represented. Four non-human osseous fragments are present, but their nature requires determination.

M. 3. Cremated human remains, presumably of one and the same skeleton, parts only of which are represented by the fragments present. No clue exists as to the age, sex, or racial affinity of the remains.

M. 5. Cremated human remains, apparently all of the same skeleton, of which a considerable portion is represented—considerably more so than in the case of M. 1 or M. 3. The individual appears to have attained adult age, while the morphology of certain cranial fragments present strongly suggests the female sex. There is no clue to racial type or affinity. A number of fragments admixed with this woman's remains represent cremated and comminuted animal bones, seemingly of ungulate origin.

REPORT No. V.

By PROFESSOR A. J. E. CAVE.

M. 6. The human remains forming the subject of this report, and submitted for examination by Messrs. W. Fraser and Camden Clarke, came from Mound 6. The material comprises a mass of severely comminuted bones, almost all fissured and warped by fire-heat and suggestive of a deliberate pounding and breakage after cremation.

Careful examination of this material reveals a mixture of human and animal bones, though in the case of the vast majority of the fragments present it is not possible to determine with any certainty their precise nature (i.e., whether human or non-human). The animal fragments include a portion of an ungulate tooth (? sheep, ? ox), a complete caudal vertebra (probably ungulate), a portion of an astragalus (? pig), and a fragment tentatively assigned to the skull-base of an ox.

The few fragments present which are identifiable with certainty as human include numerous portions of various long

bones, a portion of a tooth, three small cranial fragments, a chip representing the mandibular angle and another shewing the glenoid fossa of the temporal bone. There is no evidence to indicate the presence of more than one individual, and the mass of fragments itself represents less than one complete human skeleton.

Positive evidence is wanting as to the sex of the individual here represented. But the relatively small size of the glenoid fossa, and the general characters and appearance of the cranial fragments, suggest, at least, that the skeleton represented by these remains is that of a woman.

REPORT No. VI.

By J. WILFRED JACKSON, D.Sc., F.S.A., F.G.S.

The animal remains from the (Ingleby) site have been closely studied, but owing to their condition it is not easy to be sure of their identification. The tentative conclusions are given below under their locations:—

M. 1. (a) 4 fragments of burnt animal bone; they are very small and difficult to make out. One piece is probably part of the shaft of the tibia of sheep. A second piece looks like the centrum of a vertebra of the same animal. A third is a fragment of the premaxilla of a carnivore and shews sockets for two teeth; it is perhaps that of a young dog. The fourth fragment is indefinite.

(b) 7 teeth (4 lower and 3 upper), also a small fragment of the skull, of ox. These are not burnt.

M. 5. 11 fragments of burnt animal bones. That they belong to ungulates is certain, but their condition renders it difficult to identify the species with accuracy. The following identifications are given with reservation:—1, parts of the astragalus of ox or horse. 2, caudal vertebra of ox: 3, magnum of ox: 4, fragment of atlas of ox: 5, fragment of shank-bone of horse (?): 6, fragment of lumbar vertebra of ox: 7, sesamoid bone from behind the metacarpo-phalangeal articulation of ox.

M. 6. The animal remains from this mound have been examined by me, but owing to their decayed state little can be said about them. They consist of a number of very decayed bones (not burnt) among which the following can be recognised:—

(a) Small ox, metacarpal and fragments of toe-bones.

(b) Seven small fragments of burnt bone which are very difficult to identify. Tentative identification are, ox and pig.

REPORT No. VII.

By H. S. HOLDEN, D.Sc., F.R.S.E., F.L.S.

Owing to war-time restrictions on the use of material, it has not been possible to make a complete study of the charred wood fragments marked M. 1, M. 1a, M. 3 and M. 5 respectively, submitted for identification, but there is little doubt that the majority of the identifiable pieces consist of oak. One piece of birch is present in M. 3 and one fragment of what I identify with some reserve as hawthorn is present in M. 5.